

Gemmentities safe for all. I have sacrificed my body "on the Alter of Police work" after all these years. To know that I have work comp there supporting me and making me whole in the end makes me want to continue to take those risks and put myself in harms way for you. We take care of our military people who put themselves in harms way on a daily basis for the very freedoms we all take for granted. We make sure the men and women who suffer the war-time loss of limbs and injuries too horrid to describe are taken care of. So why is it we can't take care of the workers, the nuts and bolts if you will, of this great state we all call Montana? After all, the very hand you chop off with this bill my very well be your own family member or worse yet, YOU!... Think about it.

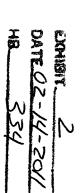
My elected officials, thank you for your consideration into this very serious bill and thank you for all the work you do in an all too-often thankless job....

Respectfully submitted,
James R Pontrelli
Missoula Police Department
435 Ryman
Missoula, MT 59802
406.880.7207

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Here is the name of a personal friend and an attorney specializing in work comp and personal injury and who is the one of the best in the business:

Leslae Dalpiaz Dalpiaz Law Firm 222 E Pine Missoula, MT 59802 406.549.9200



VOTE NO ON HB 334 !!!

Greetings to the representatives of this great state of Montana and what a privilege it is to be able to write to you about about my concerns.....

My name is James R Pontrelli and I am currently employed with the Missoula City Police Department. I was hired April of 1988 and prior to that I served with the Missoula County Sheriff's Department from July 1985 until July 1987 when budget constraints forced the layoffs of 16 sworn deputies.

Since my hire in 1988 I have ventured into almost every job specialty available with-in the Patrol Division of the Police Department. I chose to stay in Patrol because it is truly the "front line", if you will, on combating the proverbial "good vs evil". Along with this choice came the daily possibility of increased bodily injury and sometimes even narrowly escaping death. Having been in this profession so long, I have been injured many times in the course of "just doing my job". I have suffered a sprained ankle, bruised shoulder, torn ligaments in my hand, a neck fusion at C-5- C-6 and toes fused on both feet just to name a few. Every time I was injured I returned to work as soon as medically possible with three months being the longest time I have been absent from work.

Having to deal with "work comp" and certain adjusters has been so complicated and trying that have had to hire an attorney just to navigate the basics of this complex system. That being said and in all fairness, "work comp" has paid my medical bills and made me feel some-what whole after my injuries. I still have a medical claim open that occurred in 1996 (neck fusion) and I am thankful that my benefits were not terminated after a five-year period. I suffer massive headaches and still require medication that is very costly. I do my job to best of my ability, try not to complain and I am told by several supervisors and many peers that I am still a very productive and experienced employee they would hate to lose. I go to work hoping for a better tomorrow and I am proud I can contribute daily to make this a reality.

Having read over this bill [HB334], I am quite troubled by the termination of benefits after five years. My understanding is that if I suffer an injury requiring on-going medical treatment and care beyond five years (which is a very great possibility in this line of work), it will not be covered unless the injury requires surgery. In other words, with all due respect, you are going to make sure I will be taken care of for five years then....I guess not, we are going to hand you off to a private insurance company. Handing me off to a private insurance company is NOT going to happen. How many times do insurance companies refuse to take over a PRE-EXISTING condition?!-not likely!

What about the logger who cuts timber to provide wood for homes most of us are blessed to have? What about the blue-collar worker working two jobs just to provide for his> or her family? I am not advocating that work comp should provide every employee a ticket to financial freedom if injured while at work. I am the first to admit I have seen severe abuse of this system but to severely limit benefits to those truly in need is outlandish.

Representatives, be happy there are people like me on the front line making it safe for you to go about your business. You want people like me to take risks for you and contribute to making our

DATE 02-14-2011 HB 4>4

General Fund and Special Revenue Accounts FY 2006 through FY 2010 Annual Amount of Penalties Deposited in Department of Environmental Quality

											5-yr Avg	465,522	3,074	19,493	6,844	15,758	618	511,310	JAT HB	TE.
Totals		85,075	170,469	14,326	614,131	81,861	143,702	5,790	319,802	1,435,155		2,327,609	15,368	97,467	34,221	78,791	3,092	2,556,548		3,991,703
FY10					53,863	22,573	14,990	250	119,872	211,547		58,694		7,110	1,500	1,000		68,304		279,851
FY09			102,969	10,000	71,864	28,558	7,907	2,574	21,825	245,696		619,893	1,000	20,598	14,400	9,250		665,141		910,837
FY08		40,000	67,500	4,326	115,815	13,671	34,984	1,466	38,568	316,329		743,548	2,351	21,845	11,040	30,000	480	809,263		1,125,592
FY07		38,575			71,833	12,500	46,658	1,500	124,635	295,701		292,950	4,427	19,204	7,281	7,225	2,612	333,699	110219	629,400
FY06		6,500			300,758	4,560	39,162		14,902	365,882		612,524	7,590	28,710		31,316		680,140		1,046,023
	Statute - General Fund	Asbestos Control Act	Montana Hazardous Waste Act	Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Laws	Public Water Supply Laws	Strip & Underground Mine Reclamation Act	Montana Underground Storage Tank Act	Sanitation in Subdivisions Laws	Water Quality Act	Total General Fund	Statute - Special Revenue	Clean Air Act of Montana - Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Account	Metal Mine Reclamation Laws - Environmental Rehabilitation and Response Account	The Opencut Mining Act - Environmental Rehabilitation and Response Account	Septic Disposal & Licensure Laws - Environmental Rehabilitation and Response and	Montana Solid Waste Management Act - Solid Waste Management Account	Inspector Licensing & Permitting Act (Underground Storage Tank License & Permit Account	Total Special Revenue		